(b) if so, the details of the draft;

(c) whether the price of petrol will be less than their current sale price if the above products are brought under the policy of deregulation; and

(d) if so, the details of such reduction in prices of petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) No decision has been taken to deregulate the consumer prices of Petrol and Diesel.

The quantum of price reduction in respect of Petrol and Diesel, as a result of deregulation would vary from time to time, in line with the movements in international oil prices, commercial considerations and market conditions.

Availability of cooking gas in Orissa

178. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic cooking gas distributors are creating artificial scarcity of gas and charging more prices for gas cylinder; and

(b) whether Government would ensure the availability of cooking gas as per the requirement in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including the State of Orissa and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with their LPG distributors.

OMCs have reported that they have supplied 103.60 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) of domestic LPG in the State of Orissa during April to December, 2008 as against 101.28 TMT of domestic LPG during the corresponding period of last year.

OMCs have not detected any cases of creating artificial scarcity by any of their distributors. However, OMCs have detected 102 established cases of overcharging of LPG against their LPG distributorships in the country, out of which 3 cases were established in the State of Orissa during the period April, 2008 to December, 2008. Action against all the erring distributorships was taken as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)

Black marketing of LPG cylinders in Delhi

179. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL/GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is rampant black marketing of LPG cylinders in the capital city, Delhi;

(b) whether some raids were conducted by Government to assess the enormity of this menace; and